

## CA UIC Program Status Update:

The State continues to follow the Corrective Action Plan put in place by EPA in March 2015. Some of the progress made by the State under the Plan thus far, includes:

- \* Completed preliminary review of more than 5,000 injection wells to ensure that existing injection operations are not adversely impacting water supply wells (shut in about 2 dozen wells based on the review); this effort is ongoing as the State continues to issue information collection orders to operators and will shut in wells as warranted.
- \* Promulgated emergency one-year regulations to establish enforceable compliance deadlines for wells injecting into non-exempt aquifers; regulatory deadlines match those established in the March 2015 Corrective Action Plan. State has also proposed permanent regulations which they expect to finalize around the middle of 2016, well in advance of expiration of the emergency regulations.
- \* State completed a preliminary assessment of 11 aquifers historically treated as exempt to determine whether these aquifers meet exemption criteria; found that 5 of these aquifers have no active injection and one of the aquifers is not a USDW (TDS level higher than 10,000 ppm); State's preliminary determination is that these aquifers historically treated as exempt do not meet exemption criteria, however, the State continues to seek any additional current data from operators prior to making a final determination on these aquifers.
- \* The State submitted a Plan for Class II Improvements with details about their ongoing internal assessments, proposed regulatory efforts, organizational shifts, and securing of additional resources for staff and data management needs. A key component of their Plan is a systematic project-by-project review of roughly 3,000 approved projects to ensure state-wide compliance. The Plan also includes a 2-phase rulemaking effort to address a number of program issues identified by EPA and others, and to ensure the state's UIC program standards adequately address current oilfield practices. The State has scheduled several rulemaking public workshops in September 2015.

Aquifer Exemption requests – EPA expects that the State will be requesting a significant number of aquifer exemptions for injection formations that meet federal exemption criteria; to date, the State has not submitted any packages for EPA review, however, one exemption package (Arroyo Grande oil field) is currently out for public notice and several others are under review by DOGGR and the State Board.

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